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STATE FOR NEA/ARP AND S/CT, LONDON FOR TSOU, PARIS FOR ZEYA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: PENINSULA LIONS FUGITIVE TURNS HIMSELF IN; CLAIMS
HE DID NOT KNOW HE WAS A WANTED MAN

REF: 05 KUWAIT 5270

1. (SBU) On Wednesday March 8 during a Court of Appeals hearing at the Palace of Justice, Peninsula Lions defendant Misha'al Muta'ab Mohammed Al Shimmari walked into the courtroom to surrender. Al Shimmari, number five on the defendants list (see reftel), told the surprised judge that he didn't realize he was the same "M.M. Al Shimmari" listed in the newspapers as a member of the Peninsula Lions, an Al-Qaeda-connected group responsible for four violent clashes with Kuwaiti security forces in January 2005. His lawyer, Ahmed Al-Monawer, stated that Al Shimmari turned himself in as soon as he found out that the police were looking for him.

The judge immediately ordered Al Shimmari into the prisoners' holding cage within the courtroom and he took his place beside other Peninsula Lions defendants. (Note: Al Shimmari was one of eleven fugitives tried in absentia during the Peninsula Lions trial. He was convicted to ten years hard labor on December 27, 2005. The current appeals hearing, expected to last until May, could overturn his conviction or increase his sentence. End note.)

2. (U) The Court of Appeals also requested that the defense lawyer for Nuha Mohammed Roumi Al Enezi, Peninsula Lions defendant number 31 and wife of slain cell leader Amer Khlaif Al Enezi, present her death certificate. Local press reported in February that Al Enezi died of cancer in Britain but the judge stated that proof of her death was necessary in order to close her case.

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